

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. MOSCOW: COLD RECEPTION FOR HEALTH EXCHANGE GROUP

ON FEBRUARY 25, DR. GOODWIN BREININ, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL FOR US-USSR HEALTH EXCHANGE, INFORMED EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT HIS DELEGATION HAD RUN INTO A STONE WALL ON EXCHANGE TALKS. ACCORDING TO BREININ, SOVIET DEPUTY HEALTH MINISTER VENEDIKTOV TOLD THE AMERICAN GROUP: "PRESIDENT CARTER MADE SOME STATEMENTS WHICH MAKE BILATERAL EXCHANGES DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE."

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE OF THE SOVIETS LINKING A SPECIFIC BILATERAL PROGRAM TO THE CURRENT HUMAN CONFIDENTIAL

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RIGHTS DEBATE. THE COUNCIL, WHICH HAS A TEN-YEAR HISTORY OF ACTIVITY WITH THE SOVIETS, SHOULD NORMALLY HAVE RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME. THE SHARP ATTACK BY VENEDIKTOV, A SMOOTH AND HIGHLY-EXPERIENCED OFFICIAL IN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL AFFAIRS, APPEARS DESIGNED TO REGISTER SOVIET UNHAPPINESS WITH RECENT BILATERAL DEVELOPMENTS AND TO SIGNAL THAT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES CAN BE AFFECTED BY THE US

HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 2731, 2/28.)

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